

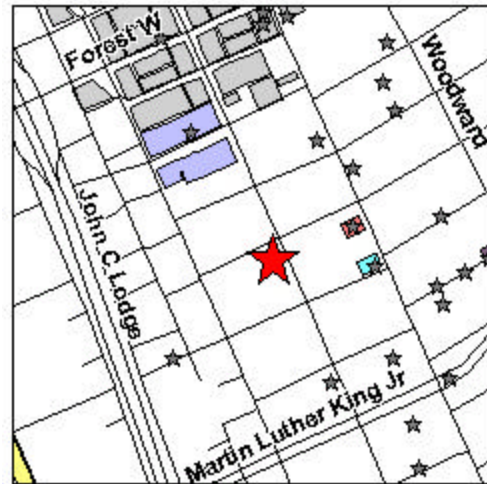
Campbell Symington House

3977 Second Avenue.

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Historic overview:

This Richardson Romanesque house was designed by Donaldson & Meier for Campbell Symington. Campbell was a prominent businessman who came from Scotland at the age of 20 to work for Michigan Bolt & Nut Works. While at a later job as manager for Mabley's Department store, he met J. L. Hudson. Together with Mr. Hudson they formed the firm of Hudson & Symington located at Campus Martius and Woodward. The firm bought a carpet business from Abbott and Ketcham in 1884 and later moved their firm to the Hudson's Building along Woodward Avenue, now demolished. The firm dissolved after the death of Mr. Hudson.

The house is a 2½-story residence of red sandstone. The central entrance is recessed behind a large wood porch. Rectangular and semi-circular arched windows are found throughout the house. Several gable dormers of various sizes are located on the roof. The interior has hardly been changed over the years with all original woodwork intact although it has been painted.

Campbell died in this house in 1928 but his wife continued to live there until she died in 1941. The house had remained in the family for over 60 years when their daughters sold the house to a Dry Cleaning Institute who later sold it to Wayne State University about 32 years later. A few months later the school sold the house to its present owners for use as a private residence.

